

country in remembering the seven brave crewmembers of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* who tragically lost their lives last Saturday morning, February 1, 2003.

Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David M. Brown, Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Ilan Ramon gave their lives trying to expand our knowledge of science, advance our technology, and broaden the limits of our universe.

These seven courageous astronauts sacrificed their lives for our future. While this is a time of great sadness, it is also a time to take great pride in their achievements, their dedication, and their service to the Nation and to the world.

They were seven different people with various skills, many talents, and different backgrounds, and they all came to work together as a team. That is what most people believe America should be like: working together as a team to accomplish something greater than themselves. They could have had very comfortable jobs somewhere else, but they chose to risk their lives for the country. They have not only found a place in our hearts, but they have found a place in our imagination also because, for me, they represent what this country is all about. They came together. They came from modest circumstances. They used the power of education to prepare themselves not just for personal success but to contribute to the Nation and to contribute to the world. They exemplify the best of this Nation.

They understood that great accomplishment and great achievement bring great risk. They knew this, yet they valiantly accepted, in the name of science and exploration, all the risks. It is important we pay tribute to them and acknowledge the risks our astronauts take with every mission.

We tend to take these risks for granted and forget the extreme conditions and pressures these brave men and women face and will face in the future. In honor of the crew of *Columbia*, we must not take these risks for granted any longer.

In their honor, we must pledge to continue the peaceful exploration of space. We have forged international partnerships. We have been able to share the pride of an international space station. We must continue to fund NASA, continue our space programs, and continue in the tradition of American and human accomplishment.

Later this year, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' monumental 59-second flight on December 17, 1903. That flight forever changed the world. Fifty-four years later, we were able to put a man in space.

The process of innovation and exploration must go on, and America must play its traditional significant, historic role.

We have in our process from the sands of Kitty Hawk to the stretches of

the Moon experienced powerful joy and monumental success, and yet we have faced tremendous setbacks and extreme sorrow. But we have persevered, and we have continued our missions into the heavens.

From our colleague John Glenn and Allan Shepherd to Neil Armstrong to an international space station, and from the crew of *Challenger* and the crew of *Columbia*, we must continue to challenge ourselves as they challenged themselves. We must continue to better ourselves as a nation and continue to grow.

President Kennedy challenged America to send a man to the Moon. We have met that challenge and have gone far beyond.

As we continue with future missions, we must never forget these seven brave souls. They gave the ultimate sacrifice for a noble cause. My deepest condolences go out to their families and the Nation that mourns them and the country of Israel that mourns its lost astronaut. This is a time for mourning, but we must shortly move on and continue to run the great risks they took, in their memory, so we can build upon their sacrifice, so we continue to reach for the heavens and beyond.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for the policy lunches and that it reconvene at 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. DOLE).

#### COMMEMORATING THE "COLUMBIA" ASTRONAUTS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are now 5 minutes evenly divided.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I yield 1½ minutes to Senator BENNETT from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, all that needs to be said has been said by the President and others about the shuttle disaster. I simply note the people of Utah are particularly distressed, not only with the human tragedy that affects all Americans but because the space program is very close to the hearts of all Utahans.

My predecessor in the Senate, Jake Garn, was an astronaut on the shuttle. The Jake Garn Space Center at Utah State University is named after the Senator. The schoolchildren of Utah assembled project "Star Shine," which was a school science project that was

carried into space by the shuttle. So all Utahans join in expressing our condolences to the families, and our determination that space exploration by this country will nonetheless still go forward.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, Senator NELSON and I attended, along with many other Senators, the beautiful service yesterday honoring these brave astronauts that we now know so much more about. Today the Senate is commemorating these *Columbia* astronauts and reconfirming the importance to our country that space research has been and will continue to be.

In the resolution we talk about U.S. Air Force COL Rick Husband, the mission commander, who was from Texas; U.S. Navy commander, William Willie McCool, the pilot; U.S. Air Force LTC Michael Anderson, payload commander, mission specialist; U.S. Navy CAPT David Brown, mission specialist; U.S. Navy commander Laurel Blair Salton Clark, mission specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, mission specialist; and Israeli Air Force COL Ilan Ramon, payload specialist. They were killed in the line of duty. The Senate is honoring them today.

Debris has been recovered in 38 counties of my State, spreading over a surface area of 28,000 square miles, an area the size of West Virginia. The Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke up 40 miles above the ground.

It is my honor to cosponsor this resolution with Senator NELSON, the only Member of the Senate who has actually been on a manned space flight, and Senator Glenn, of course, before him. He has been a great resource on the committee.

Before turning it over to Senator NELSON of Florida, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, how much time remains in the debate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 2½ minutes.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, it is with sadness that I rise to join my colleague from Texas to support this resolution. So many of our colleagues have joined us. We thank you very much for joining us yesterday as we went to the space center in Houston.

This is a resolution that not only talks about the past, and about bravery, but it talks about the future. It talks not only about honoring the legacy and the lives and the sacrifice of these brave souls but also about fulfilling America's destiny as a nation of explorers and adventurers.

This resolution is about the vision that ignites the heart of almost every American, to think that we are pushing back the frontier. As we developed